

Abstract

An overvoltage protection means is described, having a first electrode (1), having a second electrode (2), having a breakdown spark gap formed between the two electrodes (1, 2), and having a housing (3) which holds the electrodes (1, 2), when the breakdown spark gap is ignited an arc (4) forming between the two electrodes (1, 2) within the discharge space (5) which connects the two electrodes (1, 2). As claimed in the invention the overvoltage protection means has an especially high line follow current extinguishing capacity, but can nevertheless be easily built, and in that the discharge space (5) is made such that it runs at least partially transversely and/or opposite the direction of the electrical field of the prevailing line voltage so that the distance to be overcome by the arc (4) between the two electrodes (1, 2) has a transverse component to the electrical field E.